GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1684
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
REJUVENATION OF COCONUT INDUSTRY
N.N. KRISHNADAS;RAMESH CHENNITHALA;VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of coconut in Kerala has come down to 5,747 nuts per hectare due to a combination of pests and diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for rejuvenation of coconut sector withan outlay of Rs.576 crores; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The productivity of coconut in Kerala has increased from 5,747 nuts per ha. in 1999-2000 to 5,870 nuts per ha. in 2000-2001.

(b): For management of root wilt disease in Kerala, the Coconut Development Board is implementing theprogramme on Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement which includes cutting and removal of diseased palms, laying out demonstration plots; productivity improvement and organic manuring units. Coconut Development Board since its inception has sanctioned Rs.110.94 crores to Government of Kerala for various programmes for increasing production and productivity of coconuts in the State. For control of coconut mite which was first reported in Ernakulam district in 1998, an assistance ofRs.30.09 crores has been provided to the State exclusively for management of mite.

(c)&(d): Government of Kerala submitted a Project for `Enhancing Productivity of Coconut Holdingsin Root Wilt Diseased Areas of Kerala` with an outlay of Rs.576.14 crores for a period of 5 years withemphasis on cutting and removal of diseased trees in border districts of Thrissur and Thiruvananathapuram; supply of seedlings for replanting and adoption of improved crop management etc. The project was examined in Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. For similar programmes, Government of India hassanctioned Rs.110.94 crores to Government of Kerala, through Coconut Development Board since itsinception. Funds for such a project requiring high investment within a time frame cannot be provided from the meagre financial allocation available with Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Government of Kerala has been advised to send the revised project to Planning Commission directly for funding or identified external agency with detailed justification for strategies and components proposed to be implemented, time frame for each activity alongwith Techno-economic and financial viability etc.